(b) and (c) The recommendations of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation were received by the Government. After examination, Action Taken Notes on these recommendations were sent to the Lok Sabha Secretariat. The recommendations could not be accepted by the Government in *toto*.

Hike in prices of petroleum products

†749. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently hiked the prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider the price hike keeping in view the large scale resentment among the masses?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Taking into consideration the prevalent high international oil prices, the oil marketing companies (OMCs) sought to increase the consumer prices of petrol, diesel and domestic LPG and PDS kerosene. However, if the full impact of high international oil prices was passed entirely on to the consumers, it would have meant too much of a burden on them. Therefore, the Government decided to share the burden by reducing excise duties on petrol, diesel and LPG effective from 16.6.2004. The burden of high international oil prices was also shared by OMCs by not passing on the full impact of international oil prices in the increase of the domestic consumer prices of petrol, diesel and domestic LPG effective 16.6.2004. The retail selling prices of petrol, diesel and domestic LPG, in New Delhi were increased by Rs. 2/litre, Rs. 1/litre and Rs. 20/cylinder respectively. Further, OMCs did not increase the selling prices of PDS kerosene. There is no proposal to reconsider the increase in prices of petrol, diesel and domestic LPG.

Use of Kerosene Oil for Adulteration

750. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government had allowed import of kerosene by private parties/companies in 1992-93 to meet the demand of Kerosene by consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received complaints of growing adulteration of kerosene in diesel;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have now decided to allow the import of Super Kerosene Oil (SKO) only through the public sector oil companies;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) what measures have been taken to ensure that this kerosene oil is not used for adulteration?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Since indigenous production of kerosene was deficit and foreign exchange availability for Public Sector Oil Companies to import kerosene was limited, the Government had allowed importing and marketing of kerosene by the private parties/companies under Parallel Marketing Scheme by decanalising kerosene imports in April, 1993 and notifying the Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price), Order in September, 1993.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government have received complaints that the kerosene imported by Parallel Marketers was getting diverted for adulteration of diesel.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Government *vide* its notification dated 25.11.2003 have allowed import of Superior Kerosene Oil through State Trading Enterprise i.e. namely Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and IBP for all purposes.

(g) Government have amended the Kerosene Control Order to (i) restrict use of imported kerosene as a fuel or additive to the fuel in automobiles and (ii) mandate filing of end-use certificate from the industrial consumers and customer-wise details by the Parallel Marketers on a quarterly basis with the State Civil Supplies Authorities.